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For immediate release:

CEDARVILLE VETERANS LEAD SQUAD TO NCCAA

Cedarville College will make its second straight appearance at the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) national soccer tournament next week in Longview, Texas. Pairings were recently announced for the six-team event and the Yellow Jackets are seeded fourth. LeTourneau College is the host once again and tournament games will be played on November 25-27, 29, 30.

The participating teams have been divided into two pools of three teams each. Cedarville (13-5-1) is in the same pool with top-seeded Northwestern (MN) College (18-3-1), and sixth-seeded LeTourneau (4-5-0). The Jackets will have Monday off while the other two teams square off at 8 p.m. Central Time. Cedarville will then meet LeTourneau on Tuesday night and Northwestern on Wednesday. Both of those games will also be 8 o'clock starts.

The other pool's games will all begin at 5:30 p.m. The tourney opener on Monday will feature fifth-seeded Tennessee Temple University (9-7-1) against The King's (NY) College (14-7-1), the number two seed. TTU will meet third seed Azusa Pacific (CA) College (12-8-0) on Tuesday, and then Azusa will play The King's on Wednesday.

The bottom teams from each pool will meet on Friday at 1 p.m. in the fifth-place game. The consolation contest will start at 3 o'clock between the middle teams from each pool.

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The NCCAA title game will be played on Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. involving the top two teams coming out of the pool play. A new champion will be crowned since two-time defending champion John Brown University is not back.

Cedarville coach John McGillivray said that his team was seeded about where he expected and added that the club has a mission in mind. "I hope it helps that we played in the tournament last year. Our players believe that they can win it and they want to be ready to play at their best." The Jackets placed fifth last year, and their only other NCCAA appearance in 1981 resulted in a runner-up finish.

Cedarville's 13 wins this year ties a school record and their nine shutouts is a new mark. The Jackets are 8-1-1 in their last ten outings.

Cedarville will be led once again by their one-two punch of senior co-captains Tom Fite and Noel Hack. Both had a goal and an assist in the 4-0 District III championship victory at Marion two weeks ago. The tandem has played together for four years and McGillivray stated, "Tom and Noel have been two of our stronger players since their freshman year. They have been our most dominant players in the last three seasons and they are leaders by example."

A native of Milford, Ohio, Fite has had a great career at Cedarville being named a first team NCCAA All-American last year at midfield. He has scored 47 goals and registered 24 assists in his four years despite missing 14 games with various injuries. Fite's 15 goals and 8 assists for 38 points leads the 1985 club.

"Tom is one of the five best players that I have ever coached at Cedarville," McGillivray praised. "He has good speed, excellent ball control, and a high work rate. He is so creative that he can do the unexpected."

One thing that surprised no one was that Fite just received the J. Albert Turner Award which is symbolic of the league's "Most Valuable Player." That award prompted McGillivray to say, "Tom is unquestionably the best player in the MOC and the other coaches obviously felt the same way. He is a smart player, plus he conducts himself

well both on and off the field.

Hack, on the other hand, has been the Jackets main attack at forward. The Lagrange, Ohio product has 12 goals and six assists for 30 points this fall which ranks second to Fite. Hack has been a team-leader with his impeccable attitude and he was named an NAIA Academic All-American last year.

"Noel has been a good scorer," said McGillivray of Hack who has 33 goals and 22 assists in his career. "He is one of our more determined players who works hard and is steady as a player who has good technique."

Fite and Hack were both first-team selections in both the Mid-Ohio Conference and NAIA District 22 this fall. Senior back Dan Hawk was named to the All-MOC first team and the All-District 22 second team.

Other Yellow Jacket players receiving post-season honors were junior back Greg Norden (2nd team MOC), senior back Jon Reid (honorable mention MOC), and senior goal-keeper Dan Collins (honorable mention MOC).